

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /097 W

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R 182055Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4686

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USUN NEW YORK 62

CINCPAC

HICOMTERPACIS

UNCLAS SUVA 063

CINCPAC FOR POLAD PASS W.V.HALL AT COM CONFERENCE

HICOMTERPACIS FOR STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PBOR NH

SUBJ: NEW HEBRIDES GROUP SEEKS DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION IN
FIJI

REF: (A) SUVA 006 (NOTAL), (B) 75 USUN 6999, (C) 75 SUVA 1544

1. NA-GRIAMEL DELEGATION WHICH DECLARED INDEPENDENCE FROM
NEW HEBRIDES CONDOMINIUM LATE IN 1975 (REFS B AND C) STOPPED
IN FIJI ON THEIR RETURN FROM NEW YORK ON JANUARY 15 TO SEEK
DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION FROM GOF. DELEGATION LEADER JAMES
GARAE BAKEO, WHO CLAIMS TO BE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NEW FEDERA-
TION GOVERNMENT TOLD FIJI TIMES THAT HE HAD WRITTEN LETTER
TO GOF GOVERNOR GENERAL REQUESTING RECOGNITION AND "ESTABLISH-
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MENT OF OTHER NECESSARY CONTACTS". DELEGATION WAS TO HAVE

SPENT JANUARY 15 VISITING DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN SUVA AND
JANUARY 16 ON CALLS ON GOF OFFICIALS.

2. BAKEO TOLD FIJI TIMES THAT NA-GRIAMEL POLL TAKEN IN
NORTHERN ISLANDS SHOWED OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE,
AND THAT SEVERAL SOUTHERN ISLANDS HAVE INDICATED THEIR DESIRE
TO JOIN FEDERATION. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WAS TO
ENCOURAGE MULTIRACIAL HARMONY AND A FREE MARKET ECONOMY.
HE INDICATED FEDERATION WANTED TO RETAIN TRADITIONAL
LIFE STYLE OF THE PEOPLE, AND WANTED TO ATTRACT INVESTORS
AND LAND DEVELOPERS BY OFFERING 99 YEAR LEASES TO THE LATTER.

3. BAKEO SAID FEDERATION NOW USED FRENCH AND AUSTRALIAN
CURRENCY NOTES BUT WAS EXPECTING A SHIPMENT OF GOLD COINS IT
HAD ORDERED FROM A TEXAS MINT, ADDING THAT "WE DON'T BELIEVE
IN PAPER MONEY BECAUSE YOU PRINT MORE WHEN YOU RUN OUT".
FIJI TIMES ARTICLE SHOWED PICTURE OF BAKEO AND HIS SECRETARY
TIMOTHY WELLES NAFOKON DISPLAYING NA-GRIAMEL FLAG "SPECIALLY
MADE IN AMERICA" WITH WORD NA-GRIAMEL PRINTED ON BLUE BACK-
GROUND OVER SYMBOL OF NAGRIA AND NAMELE PLANTS TOGETHER WITH
CLASPED BLACK AND WHITE HANDS.

4. AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN SUVA TOLD CHARGE THAT
HE MET WITH DELEGATION JANUARY 15 ON PURELY UNOFFICIAL
BASIS TO LISTEN TO THEIR CLAIMS. HE SAID NA-GRIAMEL DELE-
GATION HAD BEEN ADVISED IN NEW YORK (BY UNNAMED SOURCE) TO
CONCENTRATE ON SEEKING RECOGNITION IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
IN SOUTH PACIFIC. BAKEO TOLD HICOM THAT HE ALSO HAD PLANS
TO CALL ON BRITISH AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA HIGH COMMISSIONS IN
SUVA. NO REQUEST FOR SIMILAR APPOINTMENT WAS RECEIVED BY
OUR EMBASSY.

5. WHEN WE ASKED GOF PERMSEC FOR FONAFF ABOUT NA-GRIAMEL
VISIT HE DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER GOF WOULD FORMALLY RECEIVE
DELEGATION. PRIME MINISTER (WHO IS ALSO MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS) RETURNED TO FIJI FROM HONOLULU MORNING OF JANUARY 16
AND WAS TO BE BRIEFED ON NA-GRIAMEL REQUEST.

6. FIJI TIMES ARTICLE ON NA-GRIAMEL VISIT BEING POUCHED
TO DEPARTMENT.
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